



ICQ Power  
Search

Search

ICQ.com

The Web

Related  
Topics:

• [ICQ Chat  
Center](#)

• [Create your  
own ICQ Chat  
Room](#)

• [ICQ Chat  
Request](#)

• [Chat Rooms  
Directory](#)

• [Chat  
Features &  
Tips](#)

Access Your PC from Anywhere Try GoToMyPC for Free

Chat with your folks and use your PC from  
any Web browser **ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.**



## Sending and Receiving a Chat Request

Learn about how to initiate an ICQ Chat with ICQ users around the world.

- [How to send an ICQ Chat request](#)
- [How to receive Chat Requests](#)
- [Let your friends know you are Free For Chat](#)

### Sending a Chat Request

To request a chat:

1. Click on the name of the user to open the **User Menu**.
2. Click the **ICQ Chat** option. This will open the **Send Online Chat Request** window.

Figure 1: Online Chat Request Window

3. Enter your reason for the Chat request in the **Enter Chat Subject** text box.
4. Click on **Chat** to initiate a new chat.  
Click on **Join Session** to invite the user to an existing chat.
5. The **Chat** session will begin when the user replies.

If you send a Chat request to an offline user - or if you check **Auto-Send ChatDirect Request** later when user is online in the **Online Chat Request Window** (figure 1) - your request will be saved in the Outbox. Your Chat request will be sent later when the user is online. The Outbox may be found by double-clicking the **System** button in the ICQ window.

To abort a chat request, click on **Cancel** or Close the Chat Request window.

### Receiving a Chat Request

When you receive a chat request, a flashing chat icon will appear next to the name of the user requesting the chat. There are two types of chat requests you can receive:

1. **Normal chat request** - when a user wishes to chat with you.
2. **Multiple chat request** - when a user wishes you to join an existing chat session

Follow these instructions to accept both types of chat requests:

1. Double-click on the user.
2. The **Incoming Chat Request** window appears.
3. Click on **Accept** to accept the chat.
4. You will receive a message saying: **Initiating chat: Waiting for the other party to respond.**  
You can click on **Abort** to cancel the request.
5. The **Chat** session will begin (if the initiation takes more than a few minutes, the sender has either cancelled the request or has become unavailable).

If you wish to invite the requesting party to a chat already in session:

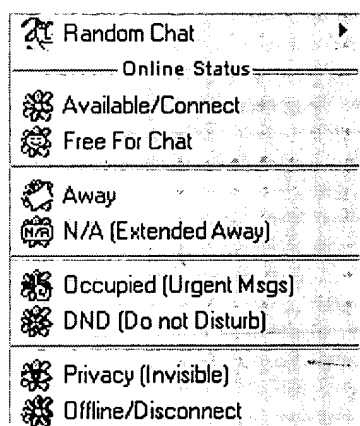
1. Click on **Join Session**.
2. **Select** the Chat Session Name from the pop-up menu: (You may only invite an additional chatter to a regular chat session. Two multiple chat sessions cannot be combined).

To refuse a chat request:

1. Click **Do Not Accept** from the responses.
2. You will then be able to choose a **Reason**.

### Free For Chat

You have the option to make yourself available for chat to users who have you on their Contact List:



1. Click on the **Status Button** on the ICQ window
2. Select **Free for Chat**.

Figure 2: Status Window

A **Free For Chat** dialog is displayed.

1. Double-click on the user.
2. The **Incoming Chat Request** window appears.
3. Click on **Accept** to accept the chat.
4. You will receive a message saying: **Initiating chat: Waiting for the other party to respond.**  
You can click on **Abort** to cancel the request.
5. The **Chat** session will begin (if the initiation takes more than a few minutes, the sender has either cancelled the request or has become unavailable).

If you wish to invite the requesting party to a chat already in session:

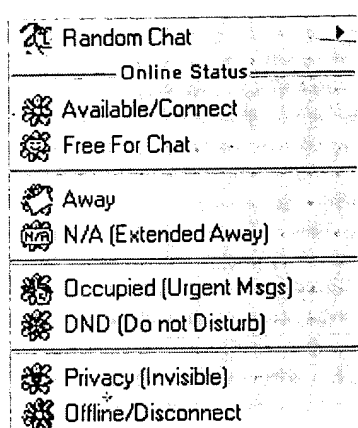
1. Click on **Join Session**.
2. **Select** the Chat Session Name from the pop-up menu. (You may only invite an additional chatter to a regular chat session. Two multiple chat sessions cannot be combined).

To refuse a chat request:

1. Click **Do Not Accept** from the responses.
2. You will then be able to choose a **Reason**.

### Free For Chat

You have the option to make yourself available for chat to users who have you on their Contact List:



1. Click on the **Status Button** on the ICQ window
2. Select **Free for Chat**.

Figure 2: Status Window

A **Free For Chat** dialog is displayed.

Figure 3: Free For Chat Dialog

1. Name the Chat Room in the **Chat Room Name** field.
2. Type in your Free for Chat message in the **Chat Mode Message** text area.
3. If you wish users to be added to your chat room automatically, check the **Auto add users to chat room when requesting chat** box.
4. Click **OK** and you will appear to other users as **Free for Chat**.

ICQ users who have you on their Contact List will now see your **Free For Chat Message** dialog. The user may then initiate a chat request.

You can easily access the various chat and other directories by clicking on the "Add/Find Users" button from your ICQ window.

[Learn more about the chat feature](#)  
[Find Random online chat partners](#)  
[Make yourself available for Random Chat](#)

**See Also:**  
[Sending a Message](#)   [ICQ File Transfer](#)   [Browse the Net with Friends](#)  
[Launching External Applications with ICQ](#)   [ICQ Auto-Respond Outgoing Messages](#)

**[Important Notice of Terms of Service]**

[ICQ Homepage](#) | [Search](#) | [What Is ICQ](#) | [Download ICQ](#) | [ICQmail](#) | [ICQ Tutorials](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Guide](#)

[User Feedback & Comments](#) | [Community](#) | [SMS Center](#) |

Copyright ©1998-2002 ICQ Inc. All Rights Reserved

Fenton

US-PAT-NO: 5619555

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5619555 A

TITLE: Graphical computer interface for an audio conferencing system

----- KWIC -----

Initially, referring to FIG. 4, an end user initiates operation of the GUI software by entering a user name and password, step 100. FIG. 5 illustrates a display screen presented to the user for receiving the user ID and password.

The display screen of FIG. 5, and all other display screens illustrated herein are programmed using Windows.RTM. GUI software (Windows is a registered trademark and Windows software is a product of Microsoft Corporation). As such, the GUI software described herein which generates and controls these displays is intended for use on PC-based workstations. Alternatively, however, the GUI software of the invention may be configured for operating on other computer systems such as Macintosh.RTM.-based systems (Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.).

While the conference is in session, the user may start or stop recording of the meeting and, if authorized to do so, may lock the meeting to prevent others from joining. If the user is currently in the main audio conference,

activation of "lock meeting" function prevents any others from joining the overall audio conference. If the user is within a break out session, activation of the lock meeting function merely locks the break out session to prevent others from joining that session.

Venkatesan

US-PAT-NO: 5844973

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5844973 A

TITLE: Conference billing system with ID tagging

----- KWIC -----

For dial-out calls, the conference bridge operator receives the conference ID

and the conferee's number from the reservation system and dials the conferee.

The call then proceeds to the switch which queries the database for

instructions on what to do with the call. The database responds by directing

the switch to request the conference ID from the conference bridge. After

receiving the conference ID, the switch tags a dial-out call of the conference with the conference ID during a call setup.

For a dial-out call, the conference bridge 104 receives the conference ID and

the conferee's number from the reservation system 100 and dials the conferee.

The call then proceeds to the switch 110 which queries the database 102 for

instructions on what to do with the call. The database 102 responds by

directing the switch 110 to request the conference ID from the conference

bridge 104. After receiving the conference ID, the switch 110 tags the

dial-out call of the conference with the conference ID during a call setup.

Noen

US-PAT-NO: 6055514

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6055514 A

TITLE: System for marketing foods and services utilizing computerized  
centraland remote facilities

----- KWIC -----

In the case of auction houses a number of the remote locations can be concurrently linked with one or more central facilities or auction houses so that groups of customers at each remote or local auction facility can participate in the actual auction at one or more distant central facilities or houses. In this fashion auction customers throughout the world can participate at local auction houses in auctions taking place throughout the world so that a customer in Saint Louis can participate and bid in an auction concurrently taking place in Hong Kong or France. In this particular embodiment each customer can be provided his own personal input device permitting him to personally enter his bid during the joint auction session and at the conclusion of a successful bid remit his payment. He can as well be provided a separate monitor or can share a large screen with some or all other attendees. Each customer can be provided a separate recording or printing device to provide the customer a record or receipt of any transaction he performs.

Another embodiment provides for team shopping permitting a group customers at the same or different locations to view the same presentation simultaneously under the control of one of the customers as they speak with each other. In this instance a customer at the same or different remote location will assume control of the input device for one or more different customers. Control of the system can alternate between the individuals so that at times a first customer can control the presentation while at another time a second or other customer can assume control. The selected information will be presented to each shopper in the party though they can be at different customer locations. In this way each person in the group can share with the others products they find interesting. At the same time they can all engage in a group conversation or perhaps video conference so each can hear the other as they review the presentations together.

Another version of the invention utilizes a full blown video conference center providing a large screen, perhaps wall sized, 2 way color video and audio device in addition to a remote printer used to generate or print documents for the prospective customer. In this fashion the customer is placed in a theater like environment so he can comfortably view any desired product information by means of full motion, full color, audio/visual presentations. Images can be displayed by holograms or similar 3 dimensional means to give life and form to goods or services sold.



Bumley

US-PAT-NO: 6466969

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6466969 B1

TITLE: Notification subsystem

----- KWIC -----

The Session Manager 23 also maintains session state: principally, the user's current "personality" and status. When logged in, users can be available, away, invisible or busy: An available user can receive notifications from anyone. Being invisible is a way to accomplish tasks without being bothered by others. While invisible, users can perform any system action they wish, but will not be visible to others' searches, nor will they receive other user's notification. (They may, however, receive notifications from community organizers.) While away, users are visible to others. Being away is a means of letting others know that the user has stepped away from the computer for a brief period, perhaps for a cup of tea. If another user requests a chat or other real-time operation, the requester is informed that the requested user is away for a short period, and to try again later. Being busy tells the others that the user is on the system but otherwise occupied, and doesn't wish to be disturbed. While busy, users are visible to others' searches but will not receive other users' notifications. (They may,

however, receive notifications  
from community organizers.) Those wishing to  
contact can send e-mail or wait  
until the user becomes available.

Catanzaro

US-PAT-NO: 6438111

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6438111 B1

TITLE: Dynamically scaleable conference system

----- KWIC -----

In step 305, of FIG. 4, connection router 105 receives a request from user X to join the conference. (As noted above, connection router 105 receives user requests conforming to one of the above-mentioned standards, e.g., ITU H.323. As part of submitting this request, it is assumed that the user a priori knows the http address of connection router 105. Also, as noted above, the invention is illustrated in the context of one conference. However, the connection router 105 would also receive a conference ID that identifies the conference the user wishes to join.) In step 310, connection router 105 identifies the current server using the above-mentioned variable. As noted above, at this point the current server is multipoint server 110. In step 315, connection router 105 determines if the current server has already reached its capacity. If the current server has not reached its capacity, connection router 105 routes the user to the current server, via signaling path 101, and updates the available capacity information in Table One, e.g., by reducing the value by one, in step 320. However, as can be observed from

Table One, the available capacity for multipoint server 110 is zero. As such, connection router 105 selects a new server to join the conference in step 325. In this example, connection router 105 simply continues down to the next row entry in Table One.

(It should be noted that other selection techniques could be used, e.g., using geographical information associated with the user's IP address to select a new server in physical proximity to the user. This may entail storing additional information, e.g., associating subnet addresses of the user to areas of the country, along with the geographical locations of each server, or, requiring the user to submit such information in the request to join the conference.)

Deep

US-PAT-NO: 6393412

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6393412 B1

TITLE: Method for allowing users to purchase professional services in a private chat room through a service brokerage via the internet

----- KWIC -----

The present invention is generally directed to a method for allowing a user to access one of a plurality of service providers through a service brokerage via the Internet. The user is presented with a set of private service provider chat rooms that are on-line, and each of these rooms is associated with a service provider. The set of private service providers can optionally be selected according to a preselected criterion of the user. The user selects a chat room of a chosen service provider, obtains access to the chat room, and then privately interacts with the chosen service provider via the Internet.

The chosen service provider can receive a user profile before the user enters that provider's chat room and control access to the chat room by rejecting the request of the user to enter the chat room. The user's account is charged with a user service fee, and the service provider's account is credited with a service provider fee, according to the length of time the user occupies the

chat room.

Kalina

US-PAT-NO: 6243688

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6243688 B1

TITLE: Internet-based credit interchange system of converting purchase credit awards through credit exchange system for purchase of investment vehicle

----- KWIC -----

An Internet-based purchase credit award interchange center is described which interfaces with a credit award exchange center for conversion of any form of merchant or purchase credit award resulting from customer purchase of goods or services to investment in a mutual fund and/or investment vehicle utilizing computer data processing methods. Preassigned purchase credit accumulations earned by a consumer are exchanged from a merchant or creditor through or combination of credit cards, co-branded credit cards, PIN cards, debit and smart cards, coupons, stamps, proof of purchase, rebates, or any form of purchase award of merchant or creditors choice for an investment in a mutual fund or other investment vehicle. A specific implementation is described wherein a credit card account having investment credit awards is issued through the Internet to a customer. While inputting information through the Internet necessary for establishing the credit card account, the customer also provides any information needed to authorize the purchase of investment vehicles on his or her behalf. Any forms that need to be signed by the customer to authorize purchase of the investment vehicles may be printed out by the customer. The customer may also select, via the Internet, particular investment vehicles out of a group of possible investment vehicles. Subsequent use of the credit card by the customer automatically results in accrual of credit award accumulations in the selected investment vehicle.

The parent application describes a method and system which fulfills this need. More specifically, the parent application is directed to describing methods and systems employing a purchase award account wherein purchase credit awards resulting from a purchase by a consumer using the purchase award account is converted into an ownership interest in an investment vehicle such as a stock, bond, mutual fund, money market fund, or insurance product. More specifically, a purchase credit award interchange center is described which interfaces with a credit award exchange center for converting any form of merchant or purchase credit award resulting from a customer purchase of goods and services into an interest in an investment vehicle. Pre-assigned purchase credit accumulations earned by the customer are exchanged from a merchant or creditor through a combination of credit card, co-branded credit card, PIN card, debit and smart cards, coupons, stamps, proof of purchases, rebates, or any other form of purchase award. In this manner, the customer accrues an interest in an investment vehicle, rather than merely earning a gift certificate, mileage award or the like.

FIG. 2 illustrates an Internet-based method for establishing a credit card account or other purchase award account providing accrual of purchase credits exchangeable into stocks or other investment vehicles. At step 100, a central computer system such as the exchange system 20 of FIG. 1 displays information on an Internet web page describing the credit card account agreement. The web page also describes particular investment vehicles in which an award may be accrued using the account including, for example, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, money market fund, insurance products or real estate investments. The web page is accessible by the various potential applicants via any conventional web browser or the like. Preferably, links are provided on other web pages, such as merchant web pages, chat room web pages, affiliate marketing web pages and the like, to the Internet web page describing the credit card account agreement such that new potential customers will be directed to the account. Direct

email to potential customers may also be employed to generate further customers.

FIG. 2 has been described primarily in connection with establishing and processing a credit card account, however, the general method is also applicable to any of the other purchase accounts described above, such as debit accounts, co-branded credit card accounts, and the like.



Tobin

US-PAT-NO: 6141666

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6141666 A

TITLE: Method and system for customizing marketing services on networks communicating with hypertext tagging conventions

----- KWIC -----

The system presents HTML documents which contain hypertext links, presented as single links or image maps, i.e., grouped links, which are anchored to data that is dynamically retrieved by the database means in response to the particular class to which the client belongs to, i.e., based on the identity of the network site referring the client to the system's server. Such a dynamic retrieval of data facilitates dynamic configuration of content on all anchored HTML documents so as to meet specific requirements of a marketing participant. Customization can be either a co-branded format, whereby content includes both the host's brand name and the participant's brand name, or a private label format, whereby only the marketing participant's brand name is displayed on the HTML documents presented to clients.

FIGS. 11C, 12-18, 19A-19B, and 20 show co-branded Web site pages that correlate to the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages depicted in FIGS. 1C-10 which are customized with both the PC Flowers & Gifts and Pathfinder brands.

The PC Flowers & Gifts marketing program comprising the floral and gift Web site pages are dynamically customized in accordance with the participating Internet site's requirements which may be co-branded, private label or, a program of labeling unique to the participating Web site. More specifically, the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages are customized in both a graphic and a content format to take advantage of the consumers familiarity with the participating Internet site's position in the marketplace, the consumer's trust in the participating Internet site's established brand name, or the consumer's existing relationship with the participating Web site.

To resolve the problem of dynamic customization of Internet sites participating in the PC Flowers & Gifts program of marketing services, PC Flowers & Gifts has completely redesigned its Web site pages to be extremely user friendly and its hypertext links to be configured in a database format. The database format of hypertext links enables development of "private label" and "co-branded" floral and gift services that can be customized for many of the major Web sites on the Internet and online services. For, example, if a consumer were to visit one of the private label floral and gift services home page of the Internet site "Homearts", all the graphics and product categories on each of the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages, available through a hypertext link from a Homearts Web site, are fully customized in graphic and content format to reflect only the Homearts brand name. As another example, all the graphics and product categories on each of the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages, available through a hypertext link from a Pathfinder Web site, are partially customized in graphic and content format to reflect both the PC Flowers & Gifts and Pathfinder brand names. This unique database format of server files accessed through the hypertext links permits a participating Internet site to host floral and gift services so as to take advantage of the consumer's familiarity with the participating Internet site.

Referring now to FIG. 1C there is shown a PC Flowers & Gifts home page Web site page 100 providing Internet consumers a variety of floral and gift purchasing opportunities through graphic based hypertext links. It is noted that the references to Web site page(s) and HTML document are used interchangeably in the art and herein. The graphic link 102 provides a jump to a Web site page

detailing gift suggestions while links 103 to 106 provide jumps to Web site pages detailing specific gift offerings. Essentially, these links 103 to 106 are anchored to database server files which are called up by the server to form Web site pages that are customized to the requirements of any participating Internet site. Link 107 provides a jump to a Web site page disclosing a pledge of quality of service and, the footer 118 includes link hypertext link 113, a copyright notice, hypertext link 114, a "Talk To PC Flowers" link, and hypertext link 115, an inquiry link. The flower link 117 is a link to a "shop by occasion" Web site page which is also accessible through link 109. It is noted that the header 116 is solely a PC Flowers & Gifts label which indicates that the client has accessed the Web site page 100 without any hypertext links through a participating Web site requiring "private label" or "co-branded" customizing, more fully discussed with respect to FIGS. 11C-20 and 21C-30.

Referring now to FIG. 11A there is shown a Web site page 11A0 of a marketing co-partner, Pathfinder. A hypertext link 11A1 provides a jump to a Web site page 11B0, shown in FIG. 11B, which provides shopping opportunities to the client. The Web site page 11B0 contains hypertext links, 11B2, 11B3, and 11B4, which provide jumps to Web site pages, related to the PC Flowers and Gifts marketing program for floral and gift services, which are co-branded with the participating Web site partner, in this instance Pathfinder.

FIGS. 11C-20 show co-branded Web site pages that correlate to the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages depicted in FIGS. 1C-10. The Web site pages of FIGS. 11C-20 are customized with both the PC Flowers & Gifts and the marketing partners brand, Pathfinder. Referring to the Web site page 1100, shown in FIG. 11C, the header 1116 is a modified version of header 116 with the additional pathfinder label 1116'. In addition, the client's familiarity with the marketing partner's brand is reinforced through the retention of the marketing partner's navigational features via the hypertext link grouping 1102. The modified header 1116 with the pathfinder co-brand 1116' is shown on Web site pages 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900 and 2000. In addition, the navigational features 1102 of the marketing partner is utilized on Web site pages 1800 and 1900.

Still referring to FIG. 11C, like the home page image map 101 discussed above, the home page image map 1101 herein is a grouping of the hypertext links 108-112, which point to Web site pages that are dynamically created to reflect preferences of the marketing partner, which in this instance is Pathfinder. Accordingly, all the server Web site pages accessed through the home page image map 1101 lead to PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages that have been customized with graphic, text, or navigational features according to Pathfinder's preferences. For example, the header 1116 is customized to include the Pathfinder brand 1116', and the navigational features 1102 of the Pathfinder Internet site are retained. Such a co-branding of Web site pages takes advantage of the client's existing relationship and familiarity with the marketing partner, Pathfinder. In addition, the hypertext link grouping 1103 retains the links 102-107 of the PC Flowers & Gifts Web site pages, however, like the home page image map 1101, the hypertext link grouping 1103 provides jumps to PC Flowers and Web site pages that are dynamically created to be co-branded with the Pathfinder name brand.

11. The network server in accordance with claim 1, wherein said server means presents HTML documents having content dynamically customized in one of a co-branded and private label format.

12. The network server in accordance with claim 11, wherein said co-branded format comprises said content including said network server's host brand name and a brand name of said identity of said source which referred said client to said network server.

24. The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein said step of customizing comprises the step of providing co-branded content on said documents with labeling indicative of both a brand name of said source which refers said

client to said server and a brand name of a host of said server.

25. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein said co-branded content comprises headers and footers placed on said documents presented to said server.

wherein said server means customizes the presented information in one of a co-branded format and a private label format.

36. The server based communications system in accordance with claim 35, wherein said co-branded format comprises web site pages with headers and footers including both the referring Web site brand name and the host web site brand name.

Kohda et al, Ubiquitous Advertising on the WWW: . . . , 5th Int'l WWW conference, Paris, 1996, &lt;www5conf.inria.fr/fich.sub.13.html/slides/smesforum/PS17/P52/All.html&gt;, May 1996.